

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, December 2, 2005

MPDC ANNOUNCES HOLIDAY DETAIL TO BOOST POLICE PRESENCE THIS MONTH

While not all types of crime increase during the December holidays, there are some crimes that historically do go up this time of year, as more people are out shopping and being entertained. To help combat crime in DC during the next four weeks, the MPDC is initiating its annual "holiday detail." Beginning on Sunday, December 4, and continuing through January 7, close to 100 police recruits who are completing their training at the MPDC Academy are being assigned to support neighborhood patrols in all seven police districts. Each district is receiving between 10 and 19 recruit officers to supplement their existing patrols. Earlier this week, Chief Ramsey swore in the recruits, so that they can take police action during the detail. The recruits are teaming up with experienced officers to provide increased police presence in both downtown and neighborhood shopping and entertainment areas. The teams will be focusing on pickpockets, robberies, thefts from auto and other crimes that tend to increase during the holidays. In addition to providing increased police presence, the "holiday detail" gives MPDC recruits valuable on-the-job experience in DC neighborhoods before they receive their full-time assignments.

- ① As police step up their anti-crime efforts during the holidays, residents are reminded to do their part as well. For a detailed list of holiday safety tips, visit:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/holidaysafety>

MPDC INSPECTOR ONE OF FIVE OUTSTANDING DC GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HONORED

Following a citywide competition, five DC government employees whose performance and dedication exemplify the best in public service have received the 2005 Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Awards for Distinguished DC Government Employees. The awardees include MPDC Inspector Patrick Burke, who currently heads the Third District Substation, but previously managed traffic safety programs for the MDPC. Inspector Burke was honored for his work on the development of DC's automated traffic enforcement program. Beginning in 1999, he has been instrumental in identifying locations for DC's red-light cameras, developing protocols and procedures for program implementation, and spearheading public education and information efforts. He worked tirelessly to ensure a high level of community and legislative support, which allowed the program to expand from red-light cameras to automated speed enforcement in the summer of 2001. Prior to the photo radar program, the District's fatality rate linked to speeding was more than twice the national average, responsible for more than half of traffic-related deaths each year. In part because of the automated enforcement program, aggressive speeding has dropped by approximately 80 percent over the past four years, and overall traffic fatalities declined by 35 percent in 2004. Thanks to Inspector Burke's leadership, the District's automated enforcement program has become a national model for traffic enforcement. Cafritz Award winners receive a \$7,500 cash award, and were honored at a ceremony on December 1. Inspector Burke has donated his cash award to his church.

- ① Read the news release at:
<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=231000>
- ① For details on DC's automated traffic enforcement program, visit:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/trafficsafety>

CRIME IN DC DECLINES BY 7 PERCENT IN NOVEMBER, DOWN 7 PERCENT FOR THE YEAR AS WELL

The number of serious crimes reported in DC declined by more than 7 percent during November, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC. Compared with November 2004, property crime was down 11 percent last month, while violent crime increased by 8 percent – driven once again by an increase in robberies. November saw substantial decreases in thefts (-18%), sexual assaults (-16%), and burglaries and stolen autos (-9% each). Homicides rose from 16 in November 2004 to 20 in November 2005. The only other crime category to increase last month was robbery, which rose by 6 percent. In fact, robbery is the only crime type that has increased during the first 11 months of the year. Five of the seven police districts reported decreases in crime during November, according to the preliminary statistics, with 6D (-24%) and 5D (-17%) recording the largest reductions. For the first 11 months of the year, reports of serious crime in DC were down just over 7 percent when compared with preliminary data for January-November 2004. During this period, property crime was down 10 percent, while reports of violent crime were essentially unchanged. All seven police districts have recorded reductions in crime so far this year.

SIXTH ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY TO HONOR OUTSTANDING MPDC MEMBERS, COMMUNITY PARTNERS

With crime in DC at a 35-year low, the MPDC is honoring those outstanding police officers, civilian employees, other agency partners and community members who have helped to make DC neighborhoods safer over the past year. These individuals will be recognized during the MPDC's 6th Annual Awards Ceremony on Wednesday evening, December 14, 2005, at DAR Constitutional Hall in Northwest. The public is invited to attend this free event. Chief Ramsey and other DC leaders will present a series of awards, including the Medal of Valor, for heroism, and the Lifesaving Medal. The MPDC's Officer of the Year, Detective of the Year, civilian Employee of the Year and Reserve Officer of the Year will also be honored during the ceremony. Presented for the first time this year, the Reserve Officer of the Year award is named in honor of Joseph Pozell, a popular Reserve Officer who was killed in the line of duty on May 17, 2005, while directing traffic in Georgetown. Other awards recognize outstanding contributions and individual acts of skill or bravery by MPDC members, as well as community members and other agency partners who have worked closely with the police to fight crime and advance community policing.

NEWS & NOTES

CCTV System Comments. The MPDC is seeking public comment on recently announced changes to its Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system. In a Public Notice published in the DC Register of November 18, the MPDC released a revised list that now includes 19 permanent CCTV camera locations. The public may submit written comments to the Chief of Police, Metropolitan Police Department, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, Room 5080, Washington, DC, 20001, or via e-mail at mail.chief-of-police@dc.gov.

Join Your Police District Listserv. Each police district now has a listserv dedicated to community policing and public safety issues. To find out what police district you live in, and to access your community's listserv, go to the following page, then click on the appropriate police district: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/districts>.

- ① View the latest preliminary crime statistics for each of the seven police districts, as well as DC as a whole, at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543329.asp>>Preliminary Crime Statistics

- ① For tips on protecting yourself and your property, visit:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety>

- ① Read the news release at:

<http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=234000>

- ① Members of the public are invited to submit commendations for outstanding MPDC officers anytime, using the online form:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/commendation>

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 12/2/05

- ◆ 2005: 182
- ◆ 2004: 183
- ◆ % Change: -0.5%
- ◆ Closure Rate: 54.1% (99 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 11/26/05

- ◆ Total: 719
- ◆ Drugs: 127
- ◆ Weapons: 36
- ◆ Robbery: 11
- ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 33

Juvenile Activity week end. 11/26/05

- ◆ Arrests: 44
- ◆ Curfew Violations: 19
- ◆ Truants: 49

Firearm Recoveries as of 11/29/05

- ◆ November: 168
- ◆ 2005 Total: 2,157

Traffic Fatalities as of 12/2/05

- ◆ 2005: 42
- ◆ 2004: 43
- ◆ % Change: -2.3%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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